

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the application. Claim 48 has been cancelled.

In the Office Action, claims 1-47 were allowed.

Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,809,267 (Higuchi). This rejection is moot, since claim 48 has been cancelled.

Prior to receiving this Office Action, the Applicants have filed an Information Disclosure Statement on January 17, 2006. The Applicants hereby request the Examiner to consider the references included in the IDS.

Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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